

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02997 221655Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07

NEA-10 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /133 W

-----230611Z 072898 /20

R 221618Z APR 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6765

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: TEXTILES: MFA SEVEN-PLUS-SEVEN MEETING, APRIL 21

REF: GENEVA 2952

1. SUBJECT MEETING CONVENED 10:00 A.M., APRIL 21, PRODUCED NO SURPRISES AND LASTED LESS THAN HOUR. EC (LUYTEN) SPOKE FIRST REPORTING: A) EC INABILITY REACH DECISION ON MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATING EXTENSION MFA; B) REGRETTING DELAY IN REACHING DECISION AND ASKING FOR "UNDERSTANDING" OTHER PARTICIPANTS; AND, FINALLY, C) CONCLUDING BY STATING EC VIEW THAT "ONLY REAL DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON MFA FUTURE WAS DEC 31, 1977."

2. U.S. FOLLOWED EC WITH STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL.

3. KEYING STATEMENTS ON U.S. EXPRESSION CONCERN CONTINUED DELAY BE EC, NORDIC, BRAZIL, HONG KONG, YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA, MEXICO, JAPAN, MALAYSIA REPS ALL PRESSED EC "GET ON WITH IT." HONG KONG AND BRAZIL REPS WERE PARTICULARLY CAUSTIC,
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02997 221655Z

BOTH IMPLYING EC DELIBERATELY STALLING WITH VIEW TOWARD PROVIDING TIME FOR PROTECTIONIST ELEMENTS IN OTHER IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO PRESSURE THEIR GOVERNMENTS INTO SUPPORTING "EC'S WELL KNOWN" OBJECTIVE MAKING MFA MORE RESTRICTIVE. THIS SUSPICION ALSO VOICED BY JAPAN DEL (TERADA).

4. PERHAPS ONLY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT WAS NORDIC STATEMENT (AMB. CRAFOORD, SWEDEN) TAKING SHARP EXCEPTION TO LUYTEN'S ASSERTION THAT THERE WAS NO TIME PRESSURE ON REACHING DECISION ON FUTURE MFA. THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC REFLECTION OF NORDIC DISENCHANTMENT WITH EC PERFORMANCE AND OF NORDIC'S EFFORT TO DISASSOCIATE THEIR OBJECTIVES IN MFA RENEWAL FROM THOSE OF EC.

5. SINCE IT KNOWN THAT NEXT MEETING EC COUNCIL MINISTERS SET FOR MAY 3, GATT DIR-GEN LONG (CHAIRMAN) CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE RESERVING DATE MAY 4 FOR NEXT MEETING SEVEN-PLUS-SEVEN WITH VIEW TOWARD RECONVENING TC IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER PROVIDING EC HAD NEGOTIATING MANDATE BY THAT TIME. MOST EXPORTING COUNTRY REPS, FAR EAST IN PARTICULAR, PRESSED FOR TEN-DAY INTERVAL BETWEEN SEVEN-PLUS-SEVEN AND TC MEETING. THIS REQUEST BASED ON FACT MOST EXPORTING REPS WOULD BE ATTENDING FAR EAST TEXTILE CAUCUS IN HONG KONG WEEK MAY 9 AND, IN ADDITION, NEED FOR TIME CAPITALS CONSIDER EC PROPOSALS (IF ANY) AND GET REPRESENTATIVES TO GENEVA. LONG THEN AGREED TO TENTATIVELY SCHEDULE NEXT TC FOR WEEK MAY 16.

6. FRENCH OFFICIAL (COLMANT) AS WELL AS EC LOCAL REP (KLARIC) SEPARATELY TOLD PHELAN AND SMITH AFTER MEETING THAT, IN THEIR VIEW, EC DECISION ON MANDATE NOT LIKELY BY MAY 3. COLMANT SUGGESTED JUE "AT EARLIEST" AND KLARIC SAID MANDATE NOT LIKELY EMERGE UNTIL COMMISSION HAD NEGOTIATED WITH AND OBTAINED CONCESSIONS FROM HONG KONG AND KOREA. FINAL DECISION ON EXTENSION MANDATE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02997 221655Z

IN KLARIC'S VIEW, WOULD DEPEND UPON RESULTS EC'S EFFORTS WITH HONG AND KOREA, EC'S TWO "PROBLEM" SUPPLIERS. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA02997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770141-1126
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770430/aaaaazln.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e7e1fa1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 2952
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2728250
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXTILES: MFA SEVEN-PLUS-SEVEN MEETING, APRIL 21
TAGS: ETRD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e7e1fa1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009